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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W

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R 301146Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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USDOC WASHDC

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USDOC FOR MEPD CONGER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BENC BTRA GB

SUBJECT: MEETING WITHPRESIDENT BONGO-- US BUSINESS VISITORS

REF: STATE 22950

SUMMARY: IN MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, PRESIDNET BONGO REARRIRMED
STRONG INTEREST IH NAFING MORE AMERICAN COMPANIES DO
BUSINESS AND INVEST IN GABON . END SUMMARY.

1. HOUR LONG MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 WITH PRESIDNET BONGON
DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH FOLLOW UP TO HIS US VISIT AND
PLANS FOR FORTHCOMING VISITS BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN.

2. I GAVE PREIDENT LIST OF BUSINESSMEN WHOSE TRAVEL PLANS
ARE REASONABLY FIRM: JAVOR AND LANTENOIS OF SOROS
ASSOCIATES (ALREADY HERE): JOLLY OF UNITED TECHNOLOGIES
(INTERESTED IN POWER SYSTEMS): WALLACE AND BATH OF PAN-
AMERICAN AND MAUGER OF BOEING; SLOAN OF BROWN AND ROOT:
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ITT AND OF COPANIES INVOLVED
IN AGRIBUSINESS TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR
EARLY NOVEMBER. PRESIDNET EXPRESSED PLEARURE AT THIS
CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST
IN GABON, AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING COMPANY
REPRESENTATIVES PERSONALLY AFTER THEY HAD FIRST DEALT
WITH RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS.

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3. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FOR PRESIDENT STATE OF PLAY WITH REGARD TO TAMS AND CTMI INTEREST IN ECONOMIC STUDY FOR GRAND POURBARA AND TO OBTAIN HIS TACIT APPROVAL FOR PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED BY MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY.

4. IN COURSE DISCUSSION OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS INTERESTED IN GABON PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO HAVE KALICK UNDERTAKE HOUSING CONSTURCTION CONTRACT FOR MIN-FINANCE. I PINTED OUT TO PRESIDENT THAT HITCH HAD DEVELOPED ON LATTER SINCE MINFINANCE HAD TURNED DOWN CITIBANK OFFER OF \$6 MILLION LOAN TO GOG TO FINANCE KAKICAK PROJECT AND NOW WAS WILLING ONLY GUARANTEE LOAN BY CITIBANK DIRECTLY TO KALICAK. AFTER CONSULTING WITH MINFINACNCD ADVISER. PRESIDENT SAID THIS WAS COMMON GOG PRACTICE AND HE OPED DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH CITIBANK SO THAT KALICAK COULSD GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT.

5. I ALSO MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT CONTINUED INTEREST OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL CORPORATION IN MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR NEW LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER (BUILT BY YUGOSLAVS FOR OAU SUMMIT) WHICH HE HAD DECIDED TWO MONTHS AGO SHOULD BE AWARDED TO THEM. HE SEEMED SURPRISED THAT CONTRACT NOT YET CONCLUDED AND REAFFIRMED HIS DECISION TO PUT MANAGEMENT OF CNETER IN IHC HANDS.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDNET BONGO WAS CLEARLY PLEASE WITH RESULTS HIS NEW YORK VISIT IN TERMS OF PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIVENESS TO HIS STATED DESIRE TO WELCOME MORE AMERICAN FIRMS TO GABON. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES DEPARTMTNE AND USDOC ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES IN COMING MONTHS TO STRNEGHTEN AMERICAN BUSINESS PRESENCE IN GABON. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV01958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760371-0859
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976093/aaaaacfm.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 22950
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITHPRESIDENT BONGO-- US BUSINESS VISITORS
TAGS: BENC, BTRA, GB
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006